



# *Saving* TEXAS HISTORY

The Texas General Land Office  
Archives and Records Newsletter  
*Jerry Patterson, Commissioner*  
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*Hunt & Randel's Map of Texas, 1839. Courtesy of Frank and Carol Holcomb. (Map #93858)*

## GLO Accepts the Frank and Carol Holcomb Digital Map Collection

*by James Harkins, Director of Public Services*

The Texas General Land Office Archives and Records is home to one of the largest historical map collections in Texas with 45,000 maps, sketches and drawings dating back to 1650—all digitized and online for Texans to see how Texas has grown over the ensuing 350 years.

This fall, the digital map collection is growing substantially through a partnership with private map collectors Frank and Carol Holcomb of Houston. The Holcombs are allowing the General Land Office to digitize their map collection, providing access for the first time to more than seventy important historic maps of Texas, the United States and the Western Hemisphere. The Frank and Carol Holcomb Digital Map Collection will in-

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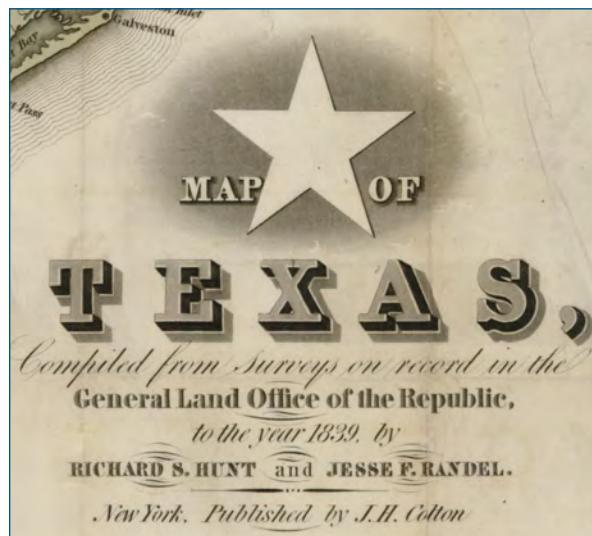
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*De Leth's Carte Nouvelle de la Mer du Sud, 1730. Courtesy of Frank and Carol Holcomb. (Map #93824)*

clude many rare and colorful maps that show Texas dating to 1513, adding an additional 100+ years in cartographic knowledge to the General Land Office Archives and Records.

"The addition of the Frank and Carol Holcomb Digital Map Collection is exciting news for those interested in Texas maps," said Mark Lambert, Deputy Commissioner of Archives and Records for the General Land Office. "These maps represent some of the most important not only in Texas history, but U.S. and Western Hemisphere history as well. We are deeply indebted to the Holcombs for this wonderful project. As a state institution, we are reliant upon private individuals, like Frank and Carol Holcomb, to help us fulfill our goal of creating the most comprehensive Texas map database in the world."



*Detail from Hunt & Randel's Map of Texas. Remarks from Hunt & Randel's Guide to the Republic of Texas say this map is "necessarily imperfect in some details," however, it was the most accurate map of the Republic at that time, and was made from the records of the General Land Office.*

The Frank and Carol Holcomb Digital Map Collection will be searchable through the GLO's website, just like the other 45,000 maps housed at the GLO, as well as thousands of additional maps that the GLO has scanned for other public institutions and private collectors.

"Frank and Carol Holcomb have made an important contribution to the study of the cartographic history of Texas with a digitization project that will benefit schoolchildren studying Texas and American history and geography, as well

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as scholars, and people who just like historic maps,” said Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson. “These digital resources will help the GLO, and users of our archival records, better understand how Texas was formed, and will show the evolution of Texas mapping. Additionally, reproductions of these maps will be available for between \$20-\$40 to help the General Land Office raise money for the conservation and preservation of the other 35.5 million documents and 45,000 maps housed at the GLO. This innovative partnership is another example of how the public, in this case Frank and Carol Holcomb, are helping the General Land Office Save Texas History.”

Other private collectors are encouraged to donate and digitize their map collections with the General Land Office. Donations made to the GLO for public purposes are tax deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §170(c)(1).

Frank Holcomb is a Houston attorney who specializes in tax issues and estate planning. His wife Carol is a volunteer docent at Bayou Bend, the American decorative arts collection of the Museum of Fine Arts Houston. The maps were



*Detail from De Leth's Carte Nouvelle showing what was known of the United States, including California as an island.*

displayed for the first time at the Patron's Party for the San Jacinto Battleground Conservancy in April 2013.

“This is a win-win-win situation for collectors, the GLO, and the people of Texas,” said Commissioner Patterson. “Saving Texas History is a big job, made easier by working with generous people like Frank and Carol Holcomb, and their willingness to share their treasures and help us grow.” ✨

## Be a Save Texas History Benefactor: A Call to Map Collectors

**D**on't know what to do with your old, original Texas maps? If you have a Texas map collection, no matter how big or small, and decide that you no longer want to collect and store them, are interested in downsizing, or find that your children have no interest in them, please consider donating your historic map collection to the Texas General Land Office Archives and Records (GLO).

The General Land Office has one of the most extensive Texas map collections in existence, with more than 45,000 unique maps, sketches and drawings that document Texas, the American Southwest and Mexico over the last 300 years. Our collection is maintained by three full-time staffers, is stored in a state-of-the-art facility which optimizes map preservation, and our collection is constantly growing. We are also fully committed to digitizing and placing online every single map in our collection, in order to provide scholars and other interested persons the best and widest access to the unique cartographic history of Texas both now and into the future.

All donors are identified on the General Land Office website, and all historic maps are professionally conserved (if needed), digitized, and then made available to the world from our website. Additionally, donations made to the GLO for public purposes are tax deductible pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §170(c)(1), so this is a great way to get a tax write-off and also help Save Texas History.

For information about donating your Texas map collection, please email [mark.lambert@glo.texas.gov](mailto:mark.lambert@glo.texas.gov) or call 512-463-5260. ✨

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# MAP SPOTLIGHT

## Jodocus Hondius' America (1607)

Map #93811

by Dr. José Barragán, Spanish Translator

The renowned Dutch cartographer Jodocus Hondius (Joost de Hondt) produced this thematic map that covers the far reaching regions of the hemisphere, the Pacific islands and a large expanse of the “Terra Australis,” the unexplored areas of Australia and Antarctica. Hondius relied on the cartographic framework of 16th century mapmakers, especially the highly influential works of de Bry, Mercator, and Ortelius, and incorporated the travel accounts of explorers to illuminate his map.<sup>1</sup> He included Magellan’s account of two South Pacific islands—“Tubarones” and “S. Petri/Petro”—where he found neither men nor the necessary food for living; the islands, however, were “suitable for fishing.” Hondius also added a note about a northwest passage in the far northern coasts of America where the Straits of Anian and Davis meet. The few Spanish incursions into the American Southwest leave the map with little information regarding Texas, save some of the explored rivers along the coast and the “Rio Escondido,” presumably the Rio Grande.



*America, 1607. Courtesy of Frank and Carol Holcomb.*

The map demonstrates the extent of European settlements in the Americas, including a few mythical places yet unexplored. On the east coast of North America, Hondius covered the French and English settlements, including the recently established Virginia Colony. On the less-explored west coast, however, Hondius included many of the fictitious “kingdoms” described in travel accounts of the region, including Anian, Quivira, Tolm, and Totonteac. In central Mexico (Nova Hispania or New Spain), he denoted the main population centers using the symbol of a church. In South America, Hondius highlighted the Spanish and Portuguese settlements on the Pacific and Atlantic coasts, as well as those of Peru and Paraguay. Present-day Colombia’s importance in gold mining earned



*Detail from Hondius' America showing a boat from Tierra del Fuego made from skin, and suitable for lighting fires.*



*Detail from Hondius' America showing Brazilian natives making beer.*

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the region the name of “Castilla del Oro” or Golden Castile.

Hondius’ elaborately decorated map depicts seagoing vessels from Europe, Japan and the Americas; images of indigenous peoples; and depictions of sea monsters. Of the nine vessels shown, one is described as a Japanese sailing ship with woven reed sails and wooden anchors; another as a boat from Tierra del Fuego made from skin. The four “native” ships are in sharp contrast to the uniformity of the five European caravels. The large illustration, adopted from de Bry’s *Grand Voyages*, portrays how indigenous Brazilians brewed beer from roots. The Latin inscription reads: “Means by which Americans in Brazil prepare and drink beverages, where virgins, after they have masticated roots, expel them, and afterward cook them in a pot, and they are offered to the men to drink. This particular drink is considered a delight amongst them.”<sup>2</sup> Although corn (maize) was the most common raw material for the drinks, in places where corn was not readily available, beverages were made from roots, fruits, and even peanuts. Chewing helped enzymes in the saliva to transform the starches into simple sugars that could be cooked and fermented; this method increased the alcoholic content in the beverage.<sup>3</sup> ✱

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> Dante Martins Teixeira, “A ‘America’ de Jodocus Hondius (1563-1612): um estudo das fontes iconográficas,” *Revista do Instituto de Estudos Brasileiros*, 46 (Feb., 2008): 83-84.

<sup>2</sup> The original Latin reads: “Modus conficiendi & bibendi potum apud Americanos in Brasilia, ubi virgines postquam radices quasdam manducarunt, rursus expuunt, deinde ollis coquunt & viris bibendum præbent. At[que] hæc potatio præcipu[us] sunt apud cos diliciae.”

<sup>3</sup> Hugh C. Cutler and Martín Cárdenas, “Chicha, a Native South American Beer,” *Botanical Museum Leaflets*, Harvard University, Vol. 112, No. 3 (1947): 34-35.

## New Exhibit: The Growth of Texas, the American Southwest and Mexico as Viewed Through Maps at the General Land Office

In the fall of 2014, the GLO Archives and Records premiered a brand new exhibit in the lobby of the Stephen F. Austin Building that highlights recent additions to the GLO map collection, and showcases over 350 years of Texas cartographic history, dating back to the year 1650.

This exhibit highlights several different eras in the cartographic history of Texas, including:

- ✱ Pre-Republic maps, dated between 1650 and 1820, which show Texas from its indigenous past to the earliest Anglo settlements;
- ✱ Anglo-American exploration and settlement maps of Texas and the United States, which date from the middle of the 19th century;
- ✱ Civil War-era maps, which reflect the chaotic state of national affairs;
- ✱ Railroad maps that link the eastern United States with Texas and the Pacific Ocean;
- ✱ City maps that show the increased development and urban expansion in Texas during the late 19th and early 20th century.



*Viewing one of the maps recently put on display at the Texas General Land Office.*

This exhibit will generally remain static; however, repeat visitors to the GLO will have the opportunity to see a new, featured map that rotates quarterly. The first featured map is Hondius’ America. ✱

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## BALAAM THE WARRIOR MULE

AUGUST 1873 AND A MULE TAKES ON APACHE WARRIORS.

This week in Texas History, brought to you by this station and the Save Texas History program of the General Land Office.

August 5, 1873. Llano County. After Apaches raid his ranch and shoot an arrow into his milk cow, James Moss has had enough.

With his brothers, and five other ranchers, Moss tracks the Indians to the top of Packsaddle Mountain. Catching them by surprise, Moss and his men charge into the Indian camp.

In battle, one of the ranchers loses control of his mount, a mule named Balaam. The spooked mule runs into Indian lines, kicking and biting wildly. Indians scatter. The battle is over.

Three Apaches lay dead with four ranchers wounded.

It's the last Indian battle in Llano County.

The Battle of Packsaddle Mountain was won by a mule, 141 years ago, This Week in Texas History.



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